

November 21, 1956

Dear Boris:

Thank you for your letter of October 2. I am sorry to be so tardy in replying, but we have been waiting for the plans to develop to the point where there was something to discuss.

We are definitely planning to attend a Ciba conference (the excuse: drug resistance) at London in late March. We are also booked for a conference at Glasgow the week before. We have about one more week free for other travel, and are trying to formulate other plans for this. It is very much a matter of time and finances: we still haven't altogether solved the latter. Westergaard has already invited us concretely to visit Copenhagen; I don't know whether we should plan to visit both there and Paris on one trip. Possibly we may be able to squeeze some more time at the end of the conference (March 29).

If you and Jacques could make some preliminary arrangements for funds (which are badly needed for both of us to travel) we would appreciate hearing of them so we could take them into account.

One reason time is so pressing is we are making a second extensive trip next summer (June 1- Oct. 1) to Melbourne, Australia, and the university has been very generous in allowing leave for all that time. Our earlier plan was to use next September to return from Melbourne via Europe, so that we could visit you then (about Sept. 15-20) but unless the middle-East situation clears up considerably, we may have to abandon those plans. For this reason, I think we can promise to visit Paris (I hope this doesn't sound like we're doing you a painful service) either in March or in September; whatever financial help you could raise that would be applicable to either situation would be very much appreciated.

In my own work these days I am too tied down with some more writing (a review for Bact. Revs. that has made me read a good deal of literature, e.g. on pneumococcus, that I was behind on). The only new lines concern a study of wall-less forms (i.e. L-forms) of coli. That is, the penicillin induced protoplasts can be encouraged to proliferate as such in agar (as Dienes knew years ago, ~~but~~ not for coli) but not in broth. So far, nothing genetically very interesting has succeeded, but we are still at a fairly primitive stage of working out optimal media, etc., and of looking for wall-less mutants that have genetic blocks in various aspects of wall synthesis. Sol of course is using the protoplasts for RNA transfer expts., etc.

Wright has little but technical progress; a few more negative tests of cytoplasmic transfer, and great suspicion as to whether any petites are completely neutral. Have you any views on this?

So I will write you further as our plans develop, and wait to hear what you may be able to arrange.

- 1) Tele. Memo
- 2) Answer trip to Paris
- 3) Answer neutral petites see Boyer
- 4) Ask about segregational petites



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